

School Tax Wins in Heavy Vote

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Sick, Kid!
(Count Marco, Page 40)

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CITY MANAGER QUILTS POST

A Penny for your Thoughts

Following a showing of the space lecture by NASA's Space mobile crew at Riviera School, the Pennies photographer asked some of the students, "What did you gain from this program?"

Randy Kinose, 5102 Paseo de Pablo:
"I really like the program because it showed me many things I knew about but did not fully understand. You do not realize what a lot this does until you see it. I knew something about the Apollo program because my dad works on it, but there are so many things."

Christy Waldeck, 909 Calle Miramar:
"I thought the program was outstanding. I expected a boring lecture or something, not the very interesting demonstrations. And I learned so much — I couldn't believe a lot of this at first, but now I've seen how a lot of it works."

Glen Schmidt, 4712 Paseo de las Tortugas:
"I thought it was very interesting. My father works on the Surveyor project and so I knew something about it. The program made a lot of things clear, and established the importance of space exploration without the politics that so often goes with it."

Susan Levanas, 5514 Via del Valle:
"It was really a good program. I thought everything new already had been discovered, but I know we have much to look forward to. I hope more people will want to participate in the program. It was a wonderful experience."

Jack Peterson, 5506 Paseo de Pablo:
"I thought it was a real good program. I'm especially interested in the miniaturization of some of the things that go into spacecraft. The experiments that were done helped to show how many things actually work."

Record Turnout Saluted

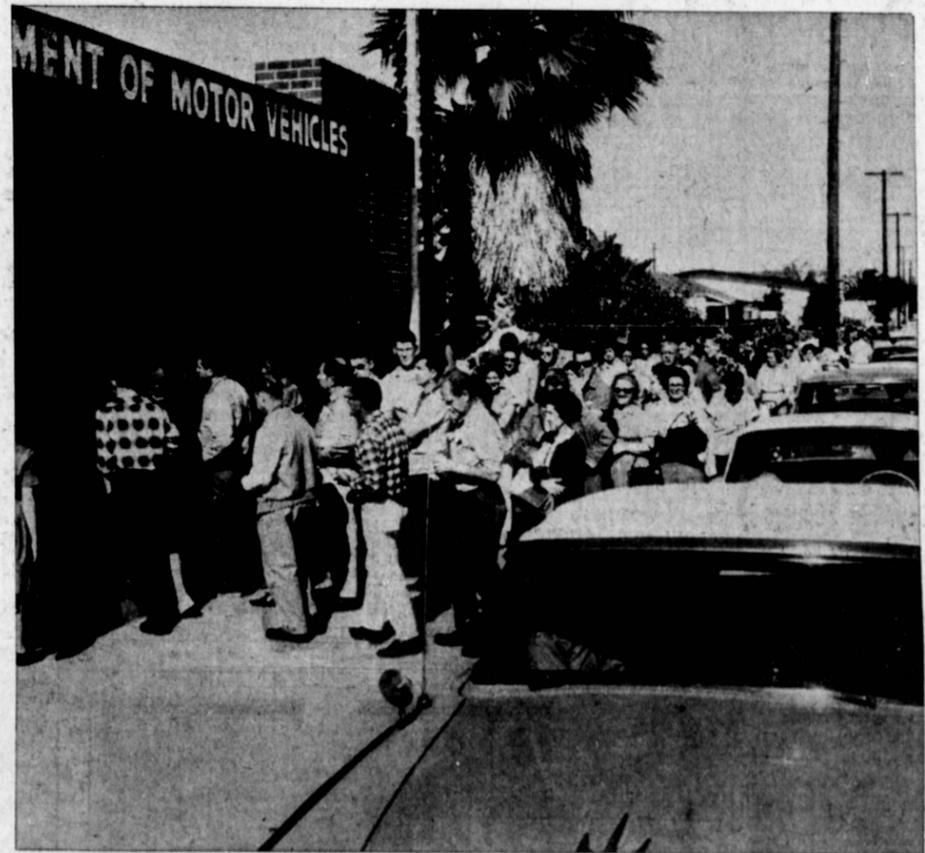
By JERRY REYNOLDS
Herald Staff Writer
Voters turned out in record numbers Tuesday to approve a 90-cent hike in school taxes for a term of five years by a margin of more than 2,500 votes. Complete unofficial returns from all 39 precincts showed 9,518 yes votes and 6,821 negative ballots in the special election. The turnout was unusually heavy for a school election, with more than 33 per cent of the eligible voters making the trek to the polls. Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, told The HERALD shortly after returns were completed, "The kids won." Hull said he thought the people who voted "yes were concerned with good schools, while the people who voted no were concerned with taxes."

BERT M. LYNN, president of the Board of Education, said he was "delighted" with the heavy voting. "I think the people, thank goodness, are becoming interested," Lynn added. Dr. Hull, in his statement, said, "The Board of Education, the staff, and the PTAs worked hard on this. It was a team effort and the kids won." District officials had made an optimistic forecast of about a 25 per cent turnout. Almost all concerned with the election were surprised about the heavy voting and the margin of victory.

"WE'RE REAL happy," Dr. Hull said. "Now we can go ahead and run the schools instead of an election." Passage of the measure assured the district of operating funds for the next five years. The new tax rate, which may be set by the trustees at any rate up to the maximum of \$3.30 per \$100 assessed valuation, will be effective during the 1964-65 fiscal year. Elated with the victory, Lynn said the vote showed the people "will back good economy-minded people on the Board of Education." He described the passage of the ordinance as "very rewarding."

Test Issue Goes Off April Ballot

A compromise ordinance opening examinations for the city's police and fire chiefs was adopted by the City Council Tuesday evening on its first reading. The council then rescinded a resolution which would have placed the measure on the April ballot as a charter amendment. The ordinance was adopted after councilmen agreed to a provision which will give city employees taking the examination two points provided they pass the written section of the exams with a score of 70 or more. Councilman Ross Sciarrotta, who offered the new provision, said his main reason for voting for the ordinance was his feeling that "referring this to the people is shifting councilmanic responsibility." Sciarrotta said he hopes the ordinance won't affect morale in the local departments. "I



BEATING THE DEADLINE . . . There were two lines Monday in front of the Department of Motor Vehicles as motorists rushed to get their license plate tabs before penalty fees became effective. One line was a jam up of cars on Border Avenue as motorists looked for parking spaces, and the other line was persons standing in line waiting to get their tabs. (Herald Photo)

Mystery Bomb Rocks South High School; Leads Slim

South High School students escaped injury Tuesday morning when a bomb exploded in a locker area at the east end of the school. Students were in classroom sessions when the bomb exploded about 10:49. The bomb had been placed on top of a locker and apparently lighted with a long fuse which probably took several minutes to burn down, a school official said. There was not a great deal of structural damage although some shrapnel fragments were embedded in acoustic tile ceiling. There was a little smoke damage, school officials added.

School district authorities said it is unknown whether a student at the school set off the bomb. A car was seen leaving the area seconds prior to the explosion. Police found a burnt match and a match book at the scene. A window on the south side of the building was broken by the explosion. Money Missing Bette Thomas of Bette Thomas Studios at 1215 Crenshaw Blvd., reported to police over the weekend that she discovered \$150 missing from the cash register.



TRAVELING EXHIBIT . . . Riviera Elementary School students listen to a lecture presented by a traveling science lecture-demonstration operated by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Space mobile which visited the school this week. The Space mobile will visit all four of Torrance's high schools next year. (Herald Photo)

Ferraro to Fill Office For Present

City Manager Wade E. Peebles, who was facing a City Council dismissal vote, submitted his resignation effective at once following a brief, closed-door meeting with members of the Council Tuesday evening. The beleaguered administrator apparently dropped plans to submit a resignation which would permit him to stay on the job until he completed 20 years of government service on June 1.

Named acting city manager by unanimous vote of the Council was Edward J. Ferraro, first assistant city manager since August, 1962. He took over the office immediately.

THE CITY Council drama was played before an overflowing council chambers. Every seat was filled, spectators were lining the walls, and others were crowded into the doorways and foyers, straining to hear the comments of the proceedings.

The councilmen adjourned to the closed personnel session with Peebles and his attorney, Irving Lessin, almost immediately after convening Tuesday. Councilman Nick Draie, who objected to the session, did not attend.

In objecting to the session, Draie asked that the attorney general's report handed to councilmen last week be read in full.

A brief note handed to City Clerk Vernon Coil after the closed session read: "I resign effective Feb. 4, 5 p.m., effective immediately." It was signed by Wade Peebles. The City Council voted 5-2 to accept the resignation with Councilman Victor E. Benstead Jr. and Mayor Albert Isen opposing.

EFFORTS to make the attorney general's report a matter of public record succeeded and then failed as councilmen heeded a warning of the city attorney to have a check made on the city's liability.

The councilmen had voted to make the report public, and then rescinded the action after City Attorney Stanley Remel-meyer told them he did not know whether the city would be liable in slander or libel complaints. He asked for and was given a week to research the law on the matter.

Attorney Lessin, speaking for Peebles, told councilmen he thought the report was "tainted with half truths," and that if the report was to be released, the attorney general be asked to furnish the entire report. "We want the whole truth," he said.

Peebles, who left the council chambers immediately after the closed-door meeting, was not at the city hall yesterday. The HERALD was told that he was undergoing physical tests in a Torrance hospital.



EDWARD J. FERRARO

He Pledges Continued Leadership

Edward J. Ferraro, appointed acting city manager Tuesday evening, pledged to "maintain the leadership inherent in the city manager form of government to provide orderly continuity of the needs, services, and finances of the city."

Ferraro, who is 35, has been the first assistant city manager since August, 1962. He assumed the position Tuesday evening following the resignation of Wade E. Peebles. In a statement to The HERALD yesterday, Ferraro said, "I welcome the ideas and the support and the challenge of the citizens and civic groups and community organizations."

BEFORE COMING to Torrance, Ferraro served three years as city administrator in Lawndale and in the Administrative offices of the County. He holds a master degree from the University of California at Los Angeles in public administration.

Ferraro told The HERALD, "I have been significantly impressed by the ability of the mayor and council, the department heads, and the city employees to keep pace with the development of the city over the past 12 years."

"While Torrance is an older city," he continued, "the entire complexion of the city has changed in recent years. It is (Continued on Page 4)

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